Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A computer implemented method that allows ~~SQL-like~~ query selections with user-defined ~~ordinary and group~~ plug-ins functions operating on structured and semi-structured data files~~,~~, the method comprising:

a) providing three interconnected independent components: a Query Filter, a Data Extractor Application, and a Database; the Query Filter ~~being an SQL-like dialect for~~ issuing and parsing relational queries, the Data Extractor Application being a computer program that extracts the data or obtains information about ~~the supported~~ schema of the Database including columns and rows of data ~~schema~~, and returns the database schema or the ~~given~~ columns of data as one row of text and the Database ~~being~~ comprising a local or distributed collection of structured or semi-structured data files; and

b) passing requests between the Query Filter and the Data Extractor Application and between the Data Extractor Application and the Database to allow the Query Filter to view the data of the Database matching the ~~SQL-like~~ query selection.

2. (currently amended) A computer implemented method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the Query Filter passes a request to the Data Extractor Application, to list the Database schema information.

3. (currently amended) A computer implemented method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the Database schema information is returned from the Data Extractor Application to the Query Filter.

4. (currently amended) A computer implemented method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the Query Filter passes a request to the Data Extractor Application, to obtain the values of the desired columns from the Database.

5. (currently amended) A computer implemented method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the Data Extractor Application returns the request to the Query Filter, with the values of the desired columns selected from the Database.

6. (currently amended) A computer implemented method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the Query Filter ~~and~~ filters the undesirable column values and outputs ~~outputting~~ the intended column values only.

7. (currently amended) A computer implemented method as claimed in claim 1,wherein the Data Extractor Application supports two types of interface protocols: a first protocol to return information about the Database schema, and a second protocol to return contents of the desired Database columns.

8. (currently amended) A computer implemented method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the Query Filter utilizes ~~possesses~~ an SQL-SELECT statement ~~like~~ grammar defined via Backus Naur Form.

9. (currently amended) A computer implemented method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the Query Filter detects ~~learns~~ via a UNIX environment variable about the location of the Data Extractor Application.

10. (currently amended) A computer implemented method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~for~~ the Data Extractor Application is ~~to be~~ implemented in a desired ~~any practical~~ programming language ~~of choice~~.

11. (currently amended) A computer implemented method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the Query Filter grammar is expanded with user-defined ordinary and group plug-ins functions.

12. (currently amended) A computer implemented method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the ~~ordinary and group~~ user-defined plug-ins functions are defined by N arguments in a ~~the module~~ plugin.c module.

13. (currently amended) A computer implemented method as claimed in claim 12 wherein last call support with all null arguments to the user-defined ~~group~~ plug-ins functions in the module plugin.c, to warrant computation of the final result is provided.

14. (currently amended) A computer implemented method as claimed in claim 12 wherein data types of all the arguments passed to the plug-ins or values returned from the plug-ins subroutines are pointers to characters.

15. (currently amended) A computer implemented method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the plugin.c module is computed with user-defined ~~ordinary and group~~ plug-ins functions, and linked ~~it~~ with the Query Filter using the make utility.

16. (currently amended) A computer implemented method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the Database comprises one or more of local or dispersed throughout a cyberspace structured or semi-structured data files.